META

BY

JASON WELCH & MAILIN TEKER

Peter Elgin and Fiona Plumpton drive along Blackpool seafront and turn right opposite the pier into elms avenue and park outside number 10 .

PETER ELGIN You know I can't tell you how much I've been looking forward to this holiday what with the stresses of running a multinational company.

FIONA PLUMPTON Me too and if you can give

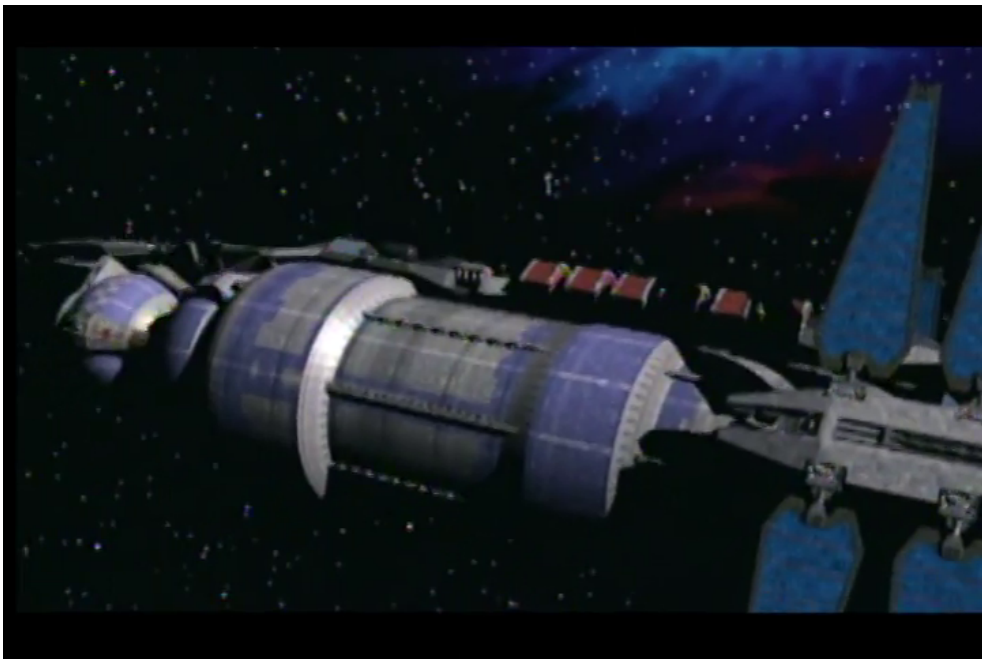
me an exclusive for SCIENCE WEEKLY .
PETER ELGIN Well stick with us Fiona as were making equipment based on those designs we found in that crashed space ship and you'll get an exclusive for science weekly .
They get out of Fiona's Toyota Yaris and walk up the black and white tiled garden path past tulips and chrysanthemums and in along the varnished wood floor paneling, then into the blue room, sitting down on a pink corduroy sofa .
ELGIN uses the remote control to activate a wall monitor ..
PETER ELGIN I've got a new catchphrase for global chemicals executives if they want to enter my chat rooms .
FIONA PLUMPTON What's that then Peter .
PETER ELGIN OH I COULD CRUSH A GRAPE
The monitor shows the SCREENSAVER of the GALACTIC FEDERATION .
He keys the user number of VICTOR BRIGHT who appears at the corner of the screen .
PETER ELGIN Victor you receive that report I gave you ?
VICTOR BRIGHT We've run it through our database and it's a sister ship to ARK ONE .
FIONA PLUMPTON REALY
VICTOR BRIGHT Three thousand years ago ARK ONE found KALDOR and contained the ancestors of the entire galactic federation .
FIONA PLUMPTON Are you telling me that all the humans of the galactic federation came from a sister ship to the wreak we found up MOUNT ARRARAT .
PETER ELGIN We want it to be a big news story, not a checkout line distraction in some grocery store .
FIONA PLUMPTON I was gonna ask the GALACTIC FEDERATION if they can give us more details of where that spaceship came from .

VICTOR BRIGHT I've discussed it with the president but she's informed me MAGRATHIA is located far from the space lanes where there are disputes with Space Raiders.
PETER ELGIN Yes but Victor and point out that global chemicals.
FIONA PLUMPTON Oh I could crush a grape.
PETER ELGIN Global chemicals have helped not only with the ZAROV experiment but also saved federation citizens when they were captured on NIMBUS 3 and we sent zebra squad in to rescue them .
VICTOR BRIGHT Yes, I'll convey that to her .
PETER ELGIN I'm suggesting we lead an expedition through to MAGRATHEA , the birthplace of most humans .
FIONA PLUMPTON I've got the journal of the intrepid but we'll never know how the survivors of that space assimilated with the indigenous human life .

PETER ELGIN And blended with the Egyptian and Assyrian empires who ruled that area at the time,

There's no way of us knowing how many of us are descended from those space explorers .
FIONA PLUMPTON But if this story is going to be anything more than checkout line tabloid journalism we have to ask the GALACTIC FEDERATION to send an expedition to MAGRATHIA .
VICTOR BRIGHT Alright Peter I'll tell the high council and let you know
know .
VICTOR BRIGHT'S face is replaced by the screensaver of GALACTIC FEDERATION and ELGIN makes a conference call to the VISCOUNT COMMITTEE .
HARRY SULLIVAN, SARAH DUNLOP ,and MARTIN EMERSON check in .
The screen shows an outside view from the VISCOUNT BULK CRUZER with a red Planet getting closer .
JIM FERGUSON As you can see we're coming up on Mars and we'll be making one orbit .
ERIC YOUNGBLOOD I'm ready to eject some of the materials onto the surface through the ejection pods .
GENE MOCKFORD The PHAROS PROBE is ready to make a soft landing onto the surface of the red planet .
IAN BANNAN Once the single V-O-C robot has assembled the dimension gate will be sending plant and machinery through the dimension Gates and I've ordered some modules from my assembly line on KALDOR .
MARTIN EMERSON We intend to build Olympus Mars to the side of the dimension Gate.
PETER ELGIN Olympus Mars is going to be dedicated to the Greek god Aries, God of War .
FIONA PLUMPTON Even though Zeus changed his name to Jupiter we can't put a memorial there .
SARAH DUNLOP Some Greek scholars say that the Titans can be found on Mercury.Where they bathe in liquid metal till ZEUS calls them for war .
JIM FERGUSSON We'll check in before

you leave orbit,
PETER ELGIN It seems the president has only just come back from her extended tour of Arcadia so I have to finalize the mission.
FIONA PLUMPTON Yes, say goodbye because the news is on the other side, and I want to watch EASTENDERS .



The hub of the GALACTIC FEDERATION is made on an asteroid circling a gas giant of a central STAR SYSTEM named CANDEREL. VICTOR BRIGHT leaves his office on CANDEREL and walks onto conveyor taking him through the station,he disembarks onto an aquamarine tiled carpet and w alks pas t prints of three of ambassadors an d colonels into the brightly lit chamber, then down a shallow spiral ramp to a central water fountain where ambassadors are being served from a refreshment kios k by V-O-C robots .
He checks in with CHIEF MOVER POUL, who then walks to a side corridor and bangs gonG stirring all the ambassadors to get up from recliners near the central

fountain .
CHIEF MOVER POUL Council is in session please come to the chambers .
The ambassadors walk down a white corridor and pass a wooden archway with the gold emblem of the GALACTIC FEDERATION and take their seats in front of a raised stage with the PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY, GENERAL WILLIAMS .AND POUL .
CHIEF MOVER POUL VICTOR you've arrived at the right time .
VICTOR sits at the front next to STENTON RELL of the KALDOR POLICE .
RELL MADAM PRESIDENT you're about to send our flagship through what is now DRACONIAN territory , hope you've given us permission ?
PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY T rade negotiations are in a delicate balance call your emperor SONDAR .

A tall bipedal reptile in military uniform reaches for an INTERCOM that has glided along the row of ambassadors. From a monitor above the main door the SCREENSAVER of the DRACONIAN EMPEROR is seen .
All the Ambassadors turn around to look at the monitor as the throne room can be seen with three DRACONIANS on a raised stage..

PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY EMPEROR BALAZAR I would like to request safe passage through DRACONIAN space to investigate one of our further outposts which has been invaded by SPACE RAIDERS .
EMPEROR BALAZAR If the galactic federation had not been so keen to expand using its new dimension gates this situation would not have happened .
GENERAL WILLIAMS TELOS is lightyears away at maximum speed unless we venture through your empire .
EMPEROR BALAZAR Y ou'll be going straight through a residential zone breaking the treaties that we spent so long establishing .
CHIEF MOVER POUL With all due respect your highness, the BIONIC and CRYOGENIC research on TELOS could be a dangerous weapon in the wrong hands . .
EMPEROR BALAZAR That is why I'll permit your expedition through our space .
SONDAR And we want full cooperation .
Victor whispers to STENTON RELL .
VICTOR BRIGHT For gods sake don't let him we're forging links with Earth .
RELL I'll set sail now and be at the DRACONIAN border by midnight tonight .
AMBASSADOR SONDAR cuts the channel and the screen shows the screen saver of the DRACONIAN Empire again .
The ambassadors turn from the screen above the door back to the stage .
VICTOR BRIGHT There's one other matter I have to bring to your attention MADAM PRESIDENT .
GENERAL WILLIAMS Well speak up ambassador BRIGHT .
VICTOR BRIGHT A scientific expedition to a historical site on earth has discovered a wrecked space ship that crash landed on a mountain

top near AMENIA north of IRAQ three thousand years ago .
GENERAL WILLIAMS C an you get me a picture.? The officers see an artist impression of the ship that's recently been found on MOUNT ARRARAT .
PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY C an you put it through a database ?
CHIEF MOVER POUL The ship is definitely one of the ark ships that brought our ancestors from home planet MAGRATHEA .
GENERAL WILLIAMS All human life as we know it stems from the ark ship .
CHIEF MOVER POUL ARK ONE arrived on KALDOR three thousand years ago and started the first human colony . .
PRESIDENT VANESSA BELLAMY G ive me a report as it comes in and tell the news agencies. I t should make the people happy that they've got brothers and sisters on earth .
VICTOR BRIGHT is escorted by OFFICER STENTON RELL out of the conference room past refreshments kiosk and up the spiral ramp taking him to a travel tube which whisks him in four directions through CANDERELLE depositing him at his office .
STENTON RELL Good luck with your report ,it seems I've got to take my ship the Galileo on a dangerous missing through DRACONIAN space , I can't wait to get out of this uniform
VICTOR BRIGHT yes it's a bit flash I'm glad I'm here not on KALDOR .
STENTON RELL but the citizens like it especially when I'm on patrol in KALDOR CITY . VICTOR BRIGHT I'll send you a report to your officer .
RELL walks down the charcoal gray tiled carpet and presses the entry coder on a soft resin panel then enters his office connected to his apartment .
RELL MONITOR give me a full briefing on the draconian Empire

In the first expansion from KALDOR CITY the galactic Federation soon encountered the DRACONIAN empire . Reptilian and warlike , they disputed our claim on colonies like meta before we finalized peace treaties after a few minor skirmishes along the Neutral Zone .
Draconian's are known for their tough, near-impenetrable scales, which provide excellent protection. Their muscular frames and powerful tails add to their physical prowess. They can adapt to various environments and situations, showcasing their resilience and versatility.
These strengths make the Draconians formidable allies in any conflict .
RELL And what should I do when I greet them?
Just smile and be friendly ?
LATER ON.....The synthesized ambidextrous voice of MONITOR calls all crew to assemble on the GALILEO long range battleship .

.RELL walks through the cargo bay with V-O-C robots carrying equipment into the storage base of the ship then walks into the ship where he's met by GALILEO navigation officer VANUA, with ADJUDICATOR ALGIE .
They walk up the central gantry to the flight deck where Varnua takes his place at the navigation console and ALGIE sits by the INTERCOM.
RELL walks through the hexagon of guard rail and sits in his command chair as the rest of the stations are taken by V-O-C robots in their familiar light green fiber covers .

RELL Disengage docking clamps and prepare to launch .

The Galileo disengages from CANDERELLE on impulse power .
VANUA When a man you've never met before suddenly gives you flowers that's impulse .
RELL What was that fine yeah
VANUA Been showing the New earth ambassador around .
The Galileo speeds away from CANDEREL towards a 50 mitre dimension gate.
RELL uses a button on his chair to activate and one of the arcs rotates 40 degrees creating a rippling mercury pool at the center and the GALILEO plunges into it .
The twin arcs rotate 40 degrees, the Galileo warps out of the dimension Gate , into the black void of space , and from the forward view of the flight deck the crew see a DRACONIAN battleship .
RELL hail the DRACONIANS .
The forward view is replaced by the screensaver of the draconian empire and then the flight deck featuring reptilian bipeds in a military uniform .COMMANDER SELIK in his command chair as VLEDKA walks up to him and hands him an android 800 viewing slab .
SONDAR COMMANDER RELL I have a request here to escort you through our space to one of the GALACTIC FEDERATION colonies you call META .

RELL Yes that's right SELIK, our report from CENTINEL 5 say it has been taken by Space Raiders,
SELIK Those Space Raiders usually stay in their own area far from draconian space , and as META is at our border we must make haste .
RELL cuts connection with SELIK and swivels in his chair where ALGIE is at the INTERCOM station .
RELL ALGIE can you take over? I want to find out more. I'll go from my rest period .
He leaves his command chair and walks out of hexagonal guardrail through the sliding doors onto a conveyor belt which takes him down the length of the ship towards the engines, then into his apartment .
RELL MONITOR give me all you have on META .
THE SYNTHESISED AMBIDEXTROUS VOICE OF MONITOR, SHIP COMPUTER
META was set up during the first expansion of the old empire as a mining colony. It became a frontier town for miners who wanted a basic life far away from modern KALDOR .
RELL So these people found life on KALDOR two technical ?
It's what they called a frontier town until the DRACONIANS laid siege to the town leading to the first peace treaty . Sentinel 5 has reported that a missionary forse has invaded via the dimension gate and taken over company Central, taking their stock of ZITON 7 ore used as a power source for spaceships .
RELL And what about the miners ?
The miners seem to be safe in their habitats .
RELL So they want me to expel the mercenaries without endangering the civilians .
Sentinel 5 reports that the mercenaries are made up of what looks like Humans similar to the miners. and what looks like large silver bipeds of unknown origin.
RELL Ok monitor, send that report to SONDAR and call me when we reach META .

The Galileo warps out of draconian space as RELL enters the flight deck

ADJUDICATOR ALGIE The DRACONIANS are signaling .

ON SCREEN

SELIK We'll wait at the edge of their territory on battle alert .

RELL We'll call them if we need them .

VANUA Galileo entering the meta star system .Isn't that one of the bones in your leg the meta star system .

MONITOR The metatarsal bones are located between the ankle and the toes of the foot in all humans.

VANUA Thank you, Monitor.

Just then the Galileo's flight deck is rocked by a hard explosion and is thrown off course .

RELL Vanya invasive maneuvers an ALGIE put the shield up .

ADJUDICATOR ALGIE This is the federation ship Galileo on a legitimate mission to meta 3

VANUA My tactical display says there's a ship

out there ,it's fast, it's obviously loaded to bear with missiles .

RELL Bring the attack computers online and stand by for turbo ignition. ALGIE signal that DRACONIANS say we're under attack .

VALUA I've a target lock .

RELL Get their bridge and engines .

MONITOR Doesn't conform to any of the designs in the starship database .

RELL Vanya turn now and fire phasers .

The Galileo does a u-turn and then fires its phasers at the Hull of the space raider ship which veers off suddenly and then hit on the hull by DRACONIAN missiles and moves at high speed out of range .

RELL Stand down from red alert and set course for META.

RELL and ALGIE leave the flight deck and down the conveyor belt towards the engines then steps off into the shuttle bay where three federation pursuit ships are in there charging silos connected to charging cables . ALGIE takes shuttle TIGRIS with four v-o-c robots which maneuvers on conveyor belt placing it near the outer hatch , as the shuttle bay depressurises, and the outer hatch opens into the black void of space .

Federation shuttle RAINGER ,with RELL and 4 V-O-C robots follows flying out descending into the atmosphere of META, they swoop through a cloud bank tracing the course of the river towards the town .TIGRIS and RAINGER fly low over the tree tops setting down in a clearing in the forest .RELL and ALGIE meet in the middle surrounded by six V-O-C robots .

MONITOR Settlement is to your right .

RELL and his men start walking through the forest towards the town.

ALGIE It's just like a western town with one dimension gate leading to a row of convenience stores and a residency .

MONITOR The mine Is to the West on a plateau below below a mountain range .

RELL Monitor what have we got on these cyborgs .

MONITOR These are new design you might be able to disable their electronics if you aim a plasma charge at there breastplate .

RELL leads his troops through the forest into a clearing with the town spread out before them.

RELL ALGIE take your men and secure company Central .

MONITOR A large group of civilians in the townhouse at the end of the Street with some unusual heat

seek signals .

RELL I'll take them go ALGIE .

RELL leeds his team straight through town and up onto a wooden terrace and through the louvre doors of the townhouse where men in orange overalls are corralled by silver bipedal cyborgs .

VILMEO CYBORG Cyberman attack.

Three Cybermen start walking across the wooden floor, there pneumatic legs making a squelching, slapping sound on the hard wooden surface and over a Persian rug towards Rel's adjudicators.

RELL Ready plasma road rifles and fire .

The V-O-C robots fire plasma rifles at the cyborgs breast plates and they stagger back to the side of the persian rug,one calapsing onto a round pine table spilling glasses onto the wooden floor .The VILMIO CYBORGS stagger back but carry on advancing towards the entrance to the Eagle and Shell pub.

Kemp and Fisher follow RELL out of the Louvre doors and run along the wooden banisters, then jump back onto the dirt Rd and round the side , While firing their plasma rifles at the oncoming Cybermen.

VILMEO CYBORG A1 We are under attack by KALDOR police.

They run to the back of the building and jump over sandstone boulders near an ever flowing river stream.

RELL Kemp, can you you take the safeties off and set the plasma rifles to maximum?

KEMP Maximum settings now boss.

From the cover of the sandstone boulders they fire at the Cybermen who are traversing a blue grass lown towards the river.

Each of the CYBERMEN take a direct hit, one of them falling into the river.Where its electronics starts sparking and shorting out.

RELL KALDOR POLICE what's your situation .

The leader of the group of men in orange boiler suits taken in at the waist with their sleeves rolled up walks from the bar towards the Louvre door opening.

MARSHAL CONRAD A large group of mercenaries came out of the dimension gate and herded us miners here, they have my daughter kidnaped at company central .

RELL uses his wrist comm

ALGIE there's a young female hostage being held captive at COMPANY CENTRAL, remember plasma beam at the chest plate .MONITOR patch me through to the sheriff's office .

The phone rings and it's picked up by ROBAR .

ROBAR Zv10 to eagle is that you ALPHA ONE .

No it's not alpha one it's STENTON RELL of the KALDOR POLICE, we have you surrounded and we want you to give yourselves up .

ROBAR Right now can't do that RELL this is a rich source of ZITON 7 we're taking back to TELOS .

RELL Hang it all ROBAR You took over META without galactical authority leave now or you'll be captured .

ROBAR I will speak to you out in the street but we hold the sheriff's daughter hostage yeah .

RELL Let the sheriff's hear her daughter make sure she's okay .

STEPHANY Yes, I'm OK father, but it's strange all these men look exactly the same Small with whiskers and

keep coming up to me asking if I want precious furs or a hot drink.

SHERIFF CONRAD Oh, that's because they're Hybrid, clones from Telos.

STEPHANY Yes, and there's some strange lizard men and these big silver men that look like the Tin Man from the Wizard of Oz. .

SHERIFF CONRAD That'll be Cyborgs created on Telos using the bionic and cryogenic program with the biomorphic transition method from Millaway's incorporated.

RELL Let's go sheriff Conrad .And get some of your men to haul that Cyberman out of the river.There might be what's left of a living human inside him.

All the RELL, KEMP ,and FISHER ,followed by VOC robots walk through the Louvre doors and step down from the wooden terrace onto the dirt road then start walking up Main St towards companies Central .

RELL ALGIE what's your situation .

ALGIE We have them surrounded but they're coming out .

They meet in the center of the town with ALPHA one ,two ,three four and five, ROBAR, JACAR And a group of identical men in orange boiler suits taken in at the waist with their sleeves rolled up.

SHERIFF CONRAD Bring STEPHANY out .

RELL I see all your men look like Max Vilmio, who I sent to earth for the cloning techniques developed by Hans Zarov at the PHARAOH ISLANDS.

ALPHA 1-5 fan out along the row of convenience shops moving on rubber wheels with armor plated resin plastic base, a large voice box speaker below a doomed head with two lights that light up when they speak.

ALPHA ONE Whe're taking all the ZITON 7 back to TELOS .

ALPHA TWO Glide towards them with it's two lights flashing on its domed head.

ALPHA TWO That ZYTON 7 ore will make a new cybership fleet and we having infinite supply of mercenaries .

RELL yes thanks to MAX VILMIO And how are your captives?I presume VILMIO,TEKER and his family are still on TELOS.

ALPHA FIVE We shall be replacing him then with our own personnel.

All with the body prints of Vilmio.

ROBAR That's right, it saves on taylor-made parts and you know that one-size-fits-all with our new cybermen.

ADJUDICATOR ALGIE We remember you, Robar. Do you want to defect and go back to the Draconians?

ROBAR I'm a hybrid born in the sands of Nimbus 3 I stand with my brethren.

RELL I know the only trouble is food you thought you'd alleviate that with a bionic and cybernetic program and you failed to realize that we could disable there electronic brain with a plasma charge straight to the breastplate

ALPHA ONE We leave now set the coordinates for Telos.

Further up the street.The dimension gate activates the twin vertical arcs rotating 40°, creating a mercury pool at its center.The.Lights reflected off its mirrored surface.

RELL I can retake the mine Go now while you

can and send all the Federation personnel back through.The dimension gate.

Alpha 1 glides around the town in his mobility scooter with a plastic resin base a voice box and a domed heads which lights up when he speaks .

ALPHA ONE You have not heard the last of the space raiders .

RELL oh I'm sure you can build an army of thousands but you're still need to feed them and your new CYBERMEN are not reliable .

ALPHA TWO Those cyborgs can work in any conditions ,even in the vacuum of space together with our new clone army we could conquer the galaxy .

SHERIFF CONRAD Then go back to TELOS I'll have the area quarantined .

ALPHA ONE We leave now set the coordinates for Telos.

RELL Sheriff the town is yours though for extra security the skies will be patrolled by a DRACONIAN BATTLECRUZER .

He gets a call on his Wrist communicator .

SELEK I've spoken with the DRACONIAN EMPEROR and he's willing to send a peacekeeping forse .

RELL Just patrol the near planets to make sure those space Raider ships don't return and liaise with SHERIFF CONRAD .

SELEK Very well my troops will have to come down to use the facilities sometimes .

RELL barks into his wrist communicator.

Their's are fountain and rocky boulders to the left of the mineworks plateau below the mountain range you can make a base .

ADMINISTRATOR ALGIE A natural habitat for you lizards.

All the mercenariesWalk out of town into the dimension gate And are followed by officers and staff from TELOS walking out, headed by MAILIN TEKER, followed by Tam Menzies and India Menzies.Then all the other technicians and workers.

MAILIN TEKER Well, thank you very much for your rescue.Frightened we'd be stranded on TELOS ?

SHERIFF CONRAD You can spend your recovery time here .

STEPHANY CONRAD Fortunately, the Galactic Federation has a large supply of canned meats, fish and vegetables all by appointment of President Vanessa Bellamy.

RELL And MAILIN if you can send us a full report straight to the High Council, I'll let them know you're safe and well.

RELL assembles all his.Team and walks out of town through the forest to the clearing with the VOC robots ,and enter the TIGRIS and RAINGER shuttles .The two Federation shuttles lift off back to the Galileo and a hero's welcome throughout the entire Galactic Federation.

END OF PART ONE